

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR TRANSPORTING MAILPIECES IN A PRINTING STATION

Abstract of the Disclosure

The present invention describes a double belt transport system for moving a mailpiece
5 into a printing area of a digital printer. The transport system includes an upper belt and a lower
belt. The upper belt has a straight section to form a nip with the lower belt to ingest the
mailpiece. The straight section also defines a registration plane to register the upper surface of
the mailpiece with respect to the print head of the printer. In order to make sure the registration
is consistent regardless of the thickness of the mailpiece, an up-lifting mechanism is used to push
10 the bottom of the mailpiece in an upward direction against a shield plate, which is positioned
substantially on the registration plane. A velocity measurement device, such as an optical
encoder, is used to measure the moving speed of the belts so that the printing speed of the digital
printer matches the moving speed of the mailpiece in the print area.